SEISDON UNION
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

WOLVERHAMPTON:
JOHN STEEN AND CO., PRINTERS, JOHN STREET.

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Penn Fields, Wolverhampton,

January 25th, 1897.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the past year, 1896, and the 23rd I have had the pleasure of submitting to you.

The Inspector's Statement will convey to you the various particulars of the work accomplished during the year.

The POPULATION has increased since 1895 by 239, *i.e.*, Wombourn, 120, Tettenhall, 25, and Kinver, 94.

DEATHS.

The DEATH RATE is, I may say, low, in fact about the same as in 1893 and 1894, being 13·7 compared with 16·6 in 1895 and other years. The number of deaths has never been so low, namely 180, except in 1893, when it went down to 160.

All the Registration Districts shew a decrease in the number of deaths. In the Wombourn District, 18, in Tettenhall, 6, and in Kinver, 9.

Death Rate for the last Decade.

1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
16·8	15·3	13·4	15·3	20·9	19·4	13·0	13·5	16·6	13·7

Deaths in Registration Districts.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Wombourn	...	46	37	83
Tettenhall	...	20	33	53
Kinver ...	...	20	24	44
Total	...	86	94	180

The number of Uncertified Deaths is 5.

I give here a comparative Table of ages at which death occurred during the last 10 years :—

Years.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards.
1887	221	50	14	10	12	41	94
1888	201	42	8	9	7	36	99
1889	178	30	12	9	12	36	79
1890	202	42	18	8	8	37	89
1891	254	38	21	8	11	48	128
1892	236	48	7	4	8	52	117
1893	160	29	6	6	6	36	77
1894	169	29	15	13	4	*50	†58
1895	213	49	17	7	6	62	72
1896	180	40	11	3	10	48	68

* 25 and under 65. † 65 and upwards.

Causes of Death for the last 10 years :—

Causes.	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Small Pox	..	..	..	..			..	..		
Scarlatina	1	.	..	6	1	1	..	3	2	2
Diphtheria	4	1	3	..	..	1	..	3	3	3
Membranous Croup .	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1
Fevers. Typhus	..			..		1	..	..	..	..
Fevers. Enteric .. .	..	..		1	1	2		.	..	..
Fevers. Continued	..	..	..	.	..		..	..	..	.
Fevers. Relapsing . ..	..	..	..		..	..	..		..	..
Fevers. Puerperal . ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	.	..
Erysipelas ..		3	.	2		1	..	2	..	.
Measles	6		1	2	9	..	..	1	..	2
Whooping Cough	2	3	..	1	11	4		1	6	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ..	6	3	3	7	3	4	12	5	3	8
Rheumatic Fever		1		1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Ague	.	..	..	..	..				..	
Phthisis	18	5	9	12	17	8	.	18	9	7
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	42	46	36	53	47	73	32	24	55	32
Heart Disease	18	11	22	17	28	17	12	24	16	12
Injuries ..	6	4	10	4	1	7	9	4	10	1
All other Diseases..	116	123	94	95	135	117	86	84	06	111
Totals	221	201	178	202	254	236	160	169	213	180

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered during the year was 324, or 49 less than last year.

The Births in Wombourn District have diminished 32; Tettenhall, 14; and Kinver, 3.

		Wombourn.	Tettenhall.	Kinver.
Males	...	89	38	40
Females	...	71	42	44
		160	80	84
			Total	324

The excess of Births over Deaths is 144, in comparison with 160 for the year 1895.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER. There have been 64 cases of this disease notified this year, 61 in 1895. This number I consider high, but the disease has been very prevalent in the neighbouring districts, particularly in the autumn months. Upwards of 40 occurred in the Parish of Pattingham.

All the cases, with the exception of two, were of a mild type. I have been unable to trace the source of the Infection in some cases, and except upon the supposition of unrecognised cases spreading it about, I do not see how the disease can be accounted for in so many instances.

My attention was drawn to the children attending the above Schools, and on several occasions I have examined many of them, and gave directions for some suspicious cases to be sent home temporarily. In one instance I sent home a lad whom I afterwards found had been a source of infection to several others, and had him removed to the Hospital. On another occasion, I was informed by the Schoolmaster that two children were absent, stated to be

suffering from "Measles." This house I visited with the Inspector, and found they had been unwell with a "Scarlet Fever" rash a fortnight before; on one of them, the skin hung in broad flakes from the fingers. The Father of these children was summoned before the Magistrates, he being ill, the Mother attended, and as she emphatically asserted her ignorance of the disease being Scarlet Fever, the Bench dismissed the case.

Where Isolation could not be provided, the patients were at once removed to the "Temporary Isolation Hospital," or no doubt the Schools would have been closed for many weeks, and the number of cases much more numerous.

DIPHTHERIA· There have been 14 cases of this disease, 3 of which proved fatal. One of these was of a malignant type in a child, who rapidly succumbed. Another, though apparently progressing towards convalescence, died suddenly. Four had a distinct history of importation. Some of the remainder were due to insanitary conditions, in others the cause could only be surmised.

This disease has been more than usually prevalent in the adjoining Districts.

TYPHOID FEVER. Of this disease, 3 cases were notified. They were all imported cases, occurring in adults, and rcovered. Two of these were treated at the Wolverhampton Hospital, the other at home.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH. These diseases have been more or less prevalent throughout the year, but most of the cases have been of a mild type.

ERYSIPELAS. There were only 2 dangerous cases out of the 8 notified under this head, most were attributed to constitutional disturbance, others occurred under insanitary conditions, which were remedied.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP. I have only one case under this head to report. It was an imported one from a distance and proved fatal.

INFLUENZA. The number of cases in this disease has been greater than in 1895, but generally speaking it has appeared in a milder form.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT. Ninety cases under this head were notified last year, 92 in 1895. 64 of them appeared under the head of Scarlet Fever, 46 of these were admitted into the Bratch Temporary Isolation Hospital.

CASES NOTIFIED.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Puerperal Peritonitis.	Croup.	Typhus.	Small-Pox.	Total.
1891	17	6	6	14	—	—	—	—	43
1892	20	5	2	6	—	—	1	1	35
1893	33	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	44
1894	140	12	16	1	1	—	—	2	172
1895	61	7	19	4	—	1	—	—	92
1896	64	8	14	3	—	1	—	—	90
									476

BRATCH TEMPORARY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

As the Kinver Hospital is now disposed of we have only the Bratch Hospital in the more central Parish of Wombourn. Forty-six cases of Scarlet Fever have been successfully treated in this Institution in the course of the year without a death. I have no doubt it has been the means of greatly lessening the number of cases.

At one time we were very much pressed for room, and it may be still more so in the future. There have been

no fresh cases notified for some time, and I anticipate that the Institution will be shortly empty. May I urge upon you not to neglect this opportunity for its enlargement. The plans and estimates, which were some time since submitted to you and of which I believe you approved, appear to me to be just what is actually necessary. It would provide a bath, extra accommodation for separating cases of different stages in the disease, dining and play-room for the convalescents, an enlarged and improved area, and other necessaries essential to an Isolation Hospital.

BYE LAWS. These Laws have been settled by the Committee appointed for the purpose, and will shortly be submitted to the Local Government Board for their sanction.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Bilston District Council have for some months completed their work for the supply of water for Bilston, and I am glad to say, have now laid down pipes from their works at the Bratch as far as Trysull Village and the Workhouse, although as yet, the connections have not been made to the houses. The work also, for the long needed supply of water to the Village of Wombourn will be commenced at once.

Complaints have in many instances been made as to the deficiency of the supply of water in the District. Many wells have become dry. In several cases, the owners having their attention called to this fact, have remedied the evil by lowering the wells.

The cause of this deficiency may be attributed—around a certain area—to the Pumping Engine at the Bratch, but also in some measure to the many long dry months of the year. Let us hope that the extra amount of rain during the last 3 or 4 months may in some degree remedy this important deficiency.

During the year the Wolverhampton Water Works have supplied water to 5 houses in the Parish of Penn, one at Bradmore, and 6 at Oaken,

A well, which was supposed to supply first-class water, became polluted by a defective drain in Broad Lane, Pattingham. Here 198 feet of pipes were taken up and relaid.

Four Samples of water have been Analysed, one was pronounced polluted, and 3 wholesome.

DRAINAGE. Besides the drainage at Pattingham already mentioned, 210 feet of 6 inch sewer pipes have been laid down near the Schools at Trysull; 336 feet of 6 inch bore near the Bell Inn, and 102 feet of 9 inch pipes at the outfall of the sewage into the Osier Bed as a further extension. This is so far acting satisfactorily.

At Penn, near the Roebuck Inn, 362 feet of 9 inch sewer have been laid, also 300 feet of 4 inch pipes have been re-laid on the Ox Barn Farm, and a large catchpit constructed, to deal more effectually with the sewage on the land.

In Star Street, Bradmore, 20 feet were taken up and re-laid, to remedy an existing obstruction.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. I have attended the Court of Magistrates upon 4 occasions. Three of nuisances under which we obtained convictions. Two of these were summoned for defective drainage and closets. One for over-crowding. The 4th, the Scarlet Fever case, which was dismissed, to which I have referred.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, CANAL BOATS, AND BAKEHOUSES ACTS. Comparatively few important nuisances under these heads have required interference, but when existing, they were promptly dealt with.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM SPACKMAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Rural District Council of Seisdon.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR 1896.

Number of Houses Inspected	482
Number of Notices on hand 31st December, 1895...	10
Number of Notices served	217
Complied with	215
Leaving on the Books 31st December, 1896 ...	12
Letters written relative to Nuisances	129
Bakehouses Inspected	12
Slaughter-houses Inspected	13
Cow Sheds Inspected	69
Canal Boats Inspected	109
House Closed, Unfit for Habitation	1
Repaired	31
Limewashed	58
Through Ventilation provided	6
Houses Disinfected	45
Overcrowding	7
Yards Paved	4
Water Closets Repaired and Ventilated	4
Filthy Houses Cleansed	6

Summary of Nuisances Abated, &c.—*Continued.*

Gipsies Vans Removed	2
Privies Removed and Reconstructed	21
,, Emptied and Cleansed	114
Ashpits Repaired	20
Ashpits built to Privies	6
Pan System Adopted	1
Doors and Spouting Provided	4
Privies Repaired	6
Privies Limewashed	4
Privies Drained	9
Drains laid to Houses	50
,, Repaired	58
,, Trapped	55
Washhouse Sinks Repaired	4
Cesspits Constructed	11
Foul Cesspools filled up	2
Urinals Provided	2
Pigsties Removed	16
Ceased Keeping Swine	2
Foul Pigwash Removed	17
Manure and other Filth Removed	30
Fowls Removed	2
Cowsheds Limewashed	13
Water Supply—Pumps Repaired	6
Tap Water laid on to Houses	18
Wells Cleansed	14
Wells Covered, Repaired, Paved and Channelled ...	5
Wells Sunk deeper	8
Water Analysed—Wholesome	3
,, Polluted	1
Wells Closed	1
Persons summoned before the Magistrates ...	4
Total	671

TABLE OF POPULATION, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1896, in the Rural District of Seisdon, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Registration Districts.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
									FEVERS.						
	Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1896			Small-pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	nteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerpural	Cholera	Erysipelas
WOMBOURN ...	5717	6140	160	Under 5	..	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 upwrds	..	11	6	..		2	..	..	..	..	5
TETTENHALL ..	3255	3400	80	Under 5	..	8	..	.	..	..	..		...	..	..
				5 upwrds	..	34	1	..		..	..	..	..	..	1
KINVER	3165	3523	84	Under 5	...	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 upwrds	..	3	4	..	..	1	...	..	..	..	2
Totals ..	12,137	13,063	324	Under 5	..	16	3	1	..	..	..	..		..	..
				5 upwrds	..	48	11	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	8

Forty-six cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the "Bratch Temporary Isolation Hospital," in the Parish of Wombourn. *One* case of Scarlet Fever, *one* of Diphtheria, and *two* of Typhoid Fever, were removed to the Wolverhampton Hospital.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896 in the Rural District Seisdon, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Registration Districts.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 years of age.																				
													FEVERS.																
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 & upwards		Small-pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Ague	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total
*WOMBOURN	83	15	7	..	6	25	30	Under 5	..	..	..		.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	..		..	6		..	8	19
								5 upwrds	..	1	..		..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..	2	..	..	3	13	8	..	39	66
TETTENHALL ..	53	14		2	2	13	22	Under 5	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	..	..	9	14
								5 upwrds	..	..	1		..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	.	2	1	2	..	31	37
KINVER ...	44	11	4	1	2	10	16	Under 5		1	1	1	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	5	..	..	4	16
								5 upwrds	..	..	1		..	...	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	1		..	1	3	2	1	19	28
Totals ..	180	40	11	3	10	48	68	Under 5	..	1	1	1		.	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	6	..	..	1	15		..	21	49
								5 upwrds	..	1	2	..	..	..	.		..	..	..	..	.	3	..	..	6	17	12	1	89	131

* Trysull Workhouse Infirmary, 10 deaths (included in the Wombourn District).